

*"Come out of her, my people,
that ye be not partakers of her sins,
and that ye receive not of her
plagues." Revelation 18:4.*

God has weighed our world in the balances of His divine law and found it wanting in righteousness. Thus He gives the message, "Babylon is fallen," to us today. The Bible has recorded the story of the fall of Babylon to warn us that in the last days we will have only one way to avoid the destruction of the world—we must follow truth.

Do you recall the prayer instruction in the first lesson? You asked that God's Spirit of truth would guide you. Ask again for the Spirit now. We must let God's Spirit lead us, not the opinions and ideas of men. Make your decision now to follow truth as God reveals it to you.

Through the grace of Christ and through the promised aid of His Holy Spirit, it is my desire to follow truth. □

Name _____

Address _____

Lesson 12: "Come Out of Her, My People."

This Maranatha Bible Reading Guide comes to you with the compliments of your friends in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You can receive further information by writing or phoning the address nearest to you.

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THE SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE
"BABYLON IS FALLEN"

"babylon is fallen"

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Revelation 14:8.

When one reads this text, an obvious question comes to mind: Who or what is Babylon? Certainly a city by that name existed on the Euphrates River in the Mesopotamian Valley. But the ancient literal city already lay largely in ruins in the days of John, the author of the Revelation. The word *Babylon* must have some significance in the Bible other than being the name of an abandoned city. We shall see, as in so



Because of Babylon's satanically inspired rebellion against God, the kingdom found itself judged and wanting. Babylon was not only a political power, but also the center of a religion based on astrology. The priests dedicated themselves to converting the nations of the world to astrology and thus away from the worship of the true God. Babylon symbolizes all systems, religious or secular, that Satan has used to lead men away from God.

10. What happened to Belshazzar's kingdom that night? Daniel 5:30, 31 (OT 701).

The Bible says: _____.

11. Why did Jeremiah warn the Israelites to flee from Babylon? Jeremiah 51:6, 7 (OT 642).

The Bible says: "Be not cut off in _____."

Iniquity means "deviation from right; wickedness, gross injustice."

12. For what two reasons did Jesus die for us? Titus 2:13, 14 (NT 189).

The Bible says: "That he might redeem us from all _____, and purify unto himself _____."

13. What is the Biblical opposite of iniquity? 1 Corinthians 13:6 (NT 155).

The Bible says: "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in _____."

14. Does God hold us responsible for truth? Romans 2:2 (NT 136).

The Bible says: "But we are sure that the judgment of God _____."

Babylon was not only symbolic of rebellion against God, but it also stood for iniquity and a determined refusal to acknowledge truth.

Paul, looking to our day, penned an explanation why so many will be lost. "Destroyed they shall be, because they did not open their minds to love of the truth, so as to find salvation. Therefore God puts them under a delusion, which works upon them to believe the lie, so that they may all be brought to judgement, all who do not believe the truth but make sinfulness their deliberate choice." 2 Thessalonians 2:11, 12, N.E.B.*

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A. *Mene* (numbered), Daniel 5:26: "God hath _____."

B. *Tekel* (weighed), Daniel 5:27: "Thou art _____."

C. *Peres* (pieces) Daniel 5:28: "Thy kingdom is _____."



many instances in Revelation, that the term has a special meaning apart from the literal one. A clue to its significance appears in the name itself.

In Babylonian the name *Bab-ilu* (Babel, or Babylon) meant "gate of the gods," and reflects the claim of the Babylonian kings that divine mandate had commissioned them to rule the world. Actually, Nimrod had founded the city, and from its beginning it was emblematic of disbelief in the true God and defiance of His will. (Genesis 11:4-9.) Read the passage, and you will find that the tower of Babel was a monument to apostasy, a citadel of rebellion against the Ruler of the universe.

Two more words in the message of the second angel have great significance: *fornication* and *wine*. Fornication, as used in prophecy, denotes turning away from God, spiritual apostasy. (Ezekiel 16:2, 15.) Wine has reference to the lies or false teachings the apostasy has as its basis. (Micah 2:11.)

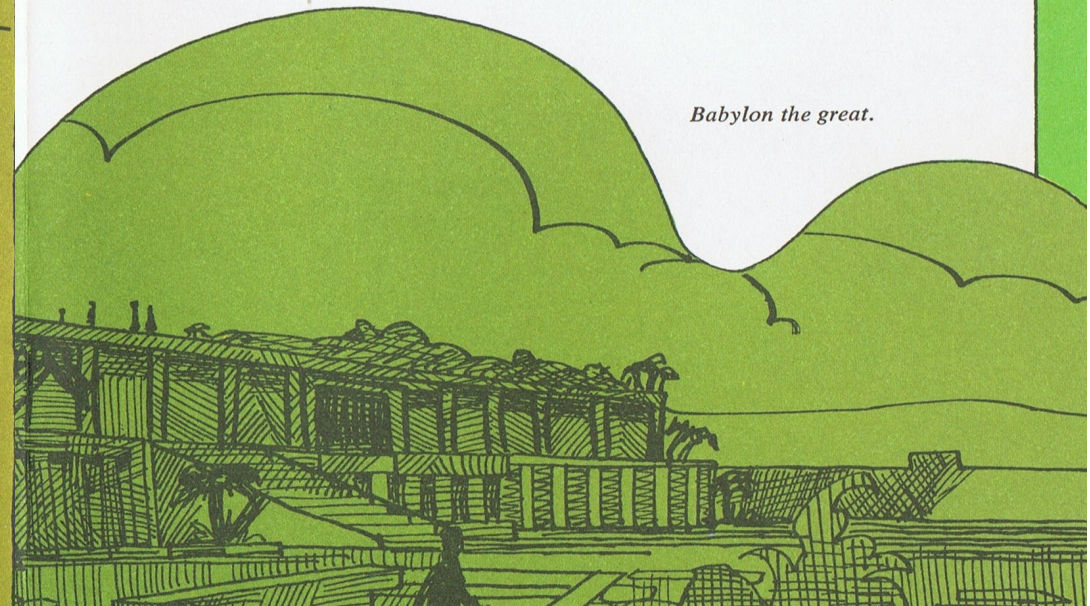
We go now to the Scriptures to find the meaning for modern man in the statement "Babylon is fallen."

THE BIBLE SAYS

1. Who did God say was the invisible king of Babylon? Isaiah 14:4-20 (OT 561).

The Bible says: _____.

Note: The description obviously does not fit a human being, but must



represent a supernatural power. See also Ezekiel 28 for a similar passage with double meaning.

2. Though in his rebellion Lucifer tried to take the place of God, what would happen to him? Isaiah 14:13-15 (OT 561).

The Bible says:

Note: These Bible passages show the basis of the conflict between Christ and Satan. Lucifer (Satan) had desired God's position. His ambition developed into open rebellion, described as "war in heaven." (Read Revelation 12:7-9.)

3. What has Satan done to the world? Revelation 12:9 (NT 219).

The Bible says:

4. On the night that the kingdom of Babylon fell, what did Belshazzar

make? Daniel 5:1 (OT 700).

The Bible says:

Please read the entire chapter of Daniel 5. Note carefully the underlying motive of Belshazzar's feast.

5. During the feast what did Belshazzar command? Verse 2 (OT 700).

The Bible says:

6. As Belshazzar and his guests drank from the vessels dedicated to the worship of God in Jerusalem, whom did they praise? Verse 4 (OT 700).

The Bible says:

7. What did Belshazzar see that frightened him? Verses 5, 6 (OT 700).

The Bible says:

8. What did Daniel tell Belshazzar he had done against God? Daniel 5:23 (OT 701).

The Bible says:

9. What did the handwriting on the wall mean? Daniel 5:26-28 (OT 701).

*"Thou art weighed in the balances,
and art found wanting." Daniel 5:27.*

